

P-999/CI-87-698 ACCEPTING TRUE-UP COMPLIANCE FILINGS AND
REFUND/SURCHARGE PLANS

BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Darrel L. Peterson	Chair
Cynthia A. Kitlinski	Commissioner
Norma McKanna	Commissioner
Robert J. O'Keefe	Commissioner
Patrice Vick	Commissioner

In the Matter of a Summary Investigation into
the Use of Access Tariffs to Bill Jointly
Provided Private Line Services to Customers

ISSUE DATE: March 8, 1990

DOCKET NO. P-999/CI-87-698

ORDER ACCEPTING TRUE-UP
COMPLIANCE FILINGS AND
REFUND/SURCHARGE PLANS

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On May 1, 1989, the Commission issued its ORDER ACCEPTING AND IMPLEMENTING TASK FORCE REPORT in the above-captioned matter. In that Order the Commission required independent local exchange companies (ILECs or the companies) to file intrastate special access tariffs instead of the separate interLATA special access and intraLATA private line tariffs previously utilized.

On July 28, 1989, the Commission issued its ORDER ACCEPTING COMPLIANCE FILINGS AND ESTABLISHING "TRUE-UP" PERIOD. In that Order the Commission approved the tariffs filed by the ILECs pursuant to the May 1, 1989 Order. The Commission also established a 90 day true-up period, during which ILECs could adjust their rates to reflect actual experience under the new tariff system.

Sixteen independent local exchange companies filed true-up compliance filings in response to the Commission's Order. Of those sixteen local companies, two proposed refund plans along with their true-up filings. Nine ILECs submitted proposed surcharge plans in addition to their true-up filings.

The Department of Public Service (the Department) recommended approval of the true-up compliance filings and refund/surcharge plans submitted by the companies. No other parties submitted comments.

The matter came before the Commission on February 20, 1990.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

True-Up Compliance Filings

The Commission accepts the Department's review of the companies' proposed true-up compliance filings as accurate and complete. The companies have used methods previously approved by the Commission to calculate their true-up rates. The resulting rates are reasonable and fair. The Commission will adopt the Department's recommendation and will approve the companies' filings.

Refund/Surcharge Plans

Each of the companies which filed a refund or surcharge plan proposed adjusting its billings to actual on the first available billing period following Commission approval of the true-up filings. Refunds or surcharges would be paid for service rendered from August 1, 1989 (the beginning of the true-up period) until the date the true-up rates are set to become effective by the Commission. The companies proposed that no interest would be paid on refunds, and no interest would be charged on surcharges. Refunds would be paid by means of credits applied to the customer's bill. Surcharges would be collected through additional charges on the customer's bill.

The Commission agrees with the Department that the proposed refund/surcharge plans should be adopted. The refunds and surcharges are a necessary part of the companies' true-up compliance filings, which have been determined to be reasonable and fair. The Commission will approve the proposed refund/surcharge plans as filed.

ORDER

1. The true-up compliance rates proposed by independent local exchange companies in this docket are hereby approved, effective with the first available billing period.
2. The refund/surcharge plans proposed by independent local exchange companies in this docket are hereby approved. The refunds/surcharges shall cover the period from August 1, 1989 until the effective date of the true-up compliance rates.

3. This Order shall become effective immediately.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Lee Larson
Acting Executive Secretary

(S E A L)